Another great fact is this, that the House of Commons has got an electric telegraph of its own for the more expeditious accomplishment of its often somewhat tardy procedure, so far at least as the transmission of communications between the committee rooms and the lobbies is concerned, by means of which, members attending committees are now enabled to learn instantaneously who is speaking in the house, and the time at which a division may be expected!——The Electric Telegraph Company's spacious design for central premises in Lothbury is now in progress of construction. Here, of course, it is intended that the wires from the various railway stations will concentrate, so as ultimately to identify, or represent, all the principal vital foci, or centres of life and action, within the circle of our island, if not also those adjoining, such as Ireland, Isle of Man, &c., and for international intelligence with the nearest continental points of approach in the channel. Mr. Bain's *punching* telegraph, already described in THE BUILDER, appears to be one chosen as best adapted to that diffusion of commercial and other intelligence, preparations for furnishing which, to the subscription-rooms of towns within the compass of the telegraphs either laid or laying down, have already been made, so that, according to the *Morning Herald*, the metropolis is to be at once put into communication with the following towns and cities, namely, Margate, Ramsgate, Deal, Dover, Folkestone, Canterbury, Maidstone, Tonbridge, Gosport, Southampton, Winchester, Dorchester, Bristol, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Peterborough, Yarmouth, Huntingdon, Hertford, Northampton, Coventry, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Stafford, Chester, Liverpool, Manchester, Leicester, Derby, Nottingham, Lincoln, Chesterfield, Sheffield, Bradford, Wisbeach, Lowestoff, Cambridge, Chelmsford, Ipswich, Rotherham, Barnsby, Wakefield, Leeds, Halifax, Rochdale, Hull, York, Darlington, Newcastle, Berwick, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Scarborough, Bridlington, Stamford, Norwich, St. Ives, Ware, Colchester.

THE WELLINGTON STATUE.

AN AD INTERIM PROCEEDING.

SIR,—Since we have got the Duke himself at length upon the arch,—"dead man" to any thing like an *approval* of the conjunction itself though he had already declared himself to be,—a *lapsus vitæ*, by the way, which now very plainly *proves* that he positively *disapproved* of that conjunction, else why "*dead*" to all *approval*, and yet now *alive* to the mere *indignity* of a *removal*?—little more need be said on that *mauvais sujet*, the statue upon the arch; especially since you have yourself already stripped off the bedaubing of figurative gloss, or bronze, or whatever you may call it, under which not only the bare nakedness of every thing like right reason, but the positive deformity of every thing like right moral lay lurking till thus exposed.

With your permission, however, I would semi-seriously suggest, that since the committee who pledged themselves,—their honour, I suppose, which is therefore still in pawn,—that they would "take down the statue from the arch,"—*id est*, as now *translated* by the committee themselves—that *they* would "overthrow the monument in the Duke of Wellington's very sight," and,—still "out of their own mouths" speaking, if not "condemning,"—thus commit, as a committee, this "most offensive and wanton affront:"—Yes, pledged *themselves to do all this*,—remorselessly, to drop the good old duke down from his high estate,—"from the height of his glory" (*sic scribitur*), and replace him on the ground;—since that most honourable and Duke-devoted committee, who pledged themselves to do all this dirty and yet dreadful work in the mere event of the public at large, or of competent judges, not approving of its present position, have been prevented by the still more Duke-devoted Government from committing this deliberate, designed, and deadly dishonour and affront to the "dead"-alive, I would indeed suggest, with all the seriousness which so grave a subject merits, that the pedestal designed for the brazen duke, and intended by the Woods and Forests to be erected in the park adjoining, just about the spot so significantly pointed at, from the beginning even until now, by the beau-ideal duke himself—as by far the most suitable site for his own 'mould of form',—be erected there as a pedestal still, as at first designed, notwithstanding the present unavailing but obvious longing both of Copenhagen and his master to move in that precise direction, from the truly 'bad eminence' from which they thus themselves appear to be so anxious to 'be off.' And so soon as the 'pedestal' is thus erected, that those trophies which the Government proposed to adapt to the arch, in the place of Copenhagen and his centauric prolongation, be, though designed for the arch, *in the meantime* mounted on the pedestal, there to await that magical 'presto' or *empressement* of the *Vox populi*, by means of which, will-he nill-he, some fine morning, the mutual transposition so devoutly to be wished, will of a sudden be realized, to the equally sudden relaxation be it hoped of the grinning jaws of "surrounding nations."

One decided advantage in the adoption of such a proposal would be this, that the one grand absurdity would be kept in countenance by the fitting companionship of a counterpart absurdity; so that either neither could shed ridicule on either, or, more properly though still figuratively speaking, both could *make* merry, one with the other, like some bizarre but good-humoured couple who *pro tem.* have exchanged their respective toggery for mere pastime, or for the fun of the thing itself.

In the hope that my suggestion will not be lost sight of,—I am, Sir, respectfully yours,

J. E. D.

THE GARDENS IN THE GREEN PARK.

SIR,—In 1790 the crown was graciously pleased to appropriate under lease, with strong covenants, to all the houses in a line from Piccadilly to the palace, leading to the stable-yard, the entire ground on the left hand of the Queen's-walk, for "an ornamental garden enclosed with iron rails," and said tenants "shall not suffer any alteration whatsoever in the height, pattern, construction, or colour of the iron rails, &c." "Shall not suffer to be erected or set up any wall, poles, or rails, or any other kind of fence."

Either from ignorance or wilfulness, these gardens have become a wilderness of unsightly forest trees, disfiguring the park, and obstructing from the inhabitants the charms which the view combines; encroachments were here and there attempted, and it is only lately that the Woods and Forests have removed the palings erected by the late Lord Durham and Sir F. Burdett. The covenants in the leases proceed thus,—"Nor sow, plant, or set, or cause to be planted on the premises, any tree, or plant, any shrub, bush, or other thing whatever that may in any way darken or prejudice the rights of, or obstruct the view or prospect from any house, or building adjoining, or near to the said premises, or use the same for any other use or purpose than that of an *ornamental garden*."

Why do not the Woods and Forests enforce the intention of the leases without obliging individuals to complain of their neighbours,—and not allow the park to be disfigured by scrubby trees, harbouring soot and cats, in lieu of flowers and flowering shrubs, and depriving the public of the "ornamental gardens."

I am, Sir, &c., P.

CAST-IRON IN ENGINEERING WORKS.

THE following minute of the Railway Commissioners in reference to the report of the engineers on the late accident, by the breaking of the iron girder bridge, at Chester, was transmitted, a few days since, to the Lords of the Treasury.

"The commissioners of railways, after considering this report, are of opinion that it is their duty to call the attention of her Majesty's Government to the uncertainty which at present exists respecting the conditions to be complied with in employing iron, but more particularly cast-iron, in engineering works. Although the facts which have been collected and the principles which are acknowledged may have proved sufficient for the guidance of engineers in the application of iron to works which are not exposed to an action differing materially from a steady load, yet there appears to be great doubt whether the experimental data, and the theoretical principles at present known, are adequate to guide them in designing iron bridges when these are to be traversed by loads of extraordinary weight with great velocities. When exposed to the rapid motion of railway trains the structure should be capable of sustaining, without permanent injury to any part, the concussions which any irregularity may occasion, and the vibratory action which a rapidly alternating change of condition must produce. The commissioners have reason to believe that much difference of opinion exists among the most eminent engineers of the present day as to the proper form and dimensions to be given to railway girders of iron, to resist the combined action of the several forces to which they are subject during the transit of trains; and until the subject has been further investigated, they cannot be considered as having sufficient data for their secure guidance.

The inquiries which are necessary on this subject demand the combined attention of scientific men and practical engineers; and the commissioners believe that this object may be most effectually obtained by means of a commission appointed by the Government.

To the commissioners appointed every facility for experiments on an extensive scale should be afforded, and they should be requested to endeavour to arrive at such principles, and to form such rules, as may enable the engineer and the mechanic, in their respective spheres, to apply the metal with confidence. Another subject that might advantageously engage the attention of the commission is the action which takes place under varying circumstances in bridges formed by adding tension bars to cast-iron beams, as in the bridge over the Dee, at Chester."

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, ROCHESTER-ROW, WESTMINSTER.

OUR readers are already aware of Miss Burdett Coutts's intention to build and endow a church and schools in Rochester-row, Westminster, in honour of her father's memory, at a cost in the whole, of little less than 30,000*l.** Mr. Ferrey was appointed to carry out the noble intention, and on Tuesday last, the 20th, the esteemed founder, assisted by his lordship the Bishop of London, and a large number of distinguished persons, laid the first stone of the intended edifice.

In a cavity beneath the stone was placed a bottle, hermetically sealed, containing coins and the following inscription:—

"Hujusce Ædis sacrosanctæ,
Deo, Creatori Sospitatori Sanctificatori,
in honorem B. Stephani protomartyri, dicatæ,
lapidem auspicalem posuit
Angela Georgina Burdett Coutts,
filia natu minima
Francesci Burdett, Baronetti,
hujus civitatis Westmonasteriensis
Suffragiis olim in Senatum per XXXI. annos
cooptati,
eadem illa, pietatis ergo in patrem,
et gratæ in Deum observantiæ,
quam nunc inchoavit ædem,
propriis sumptu exstructura,
ornatura, dotatura,
singulare in hoc seculo tantæ munificentiæ exemplar.
XIII Prid. Kal. Aug
A. D. MDCCCXLVII."

The Bishop of London in addressing the meeting said,—"The lady, to whose christian munificence we owe this good work, having been moved by filial piety to erect a memorial to the memory of her respected father, who represented for many years this city in Parliament, recollected at the same time that she had a Father in Heaven, whose glory she was bound to promote to the best of her means; and she has sought to combine these two objects of perpetuating the memory of her father in the flesh, and her duty to her Father in Heaven, by erecting this church. I need hardly remind you, that in the old times, this was a customary mode both to commemorate the memory of the dead, and to express gratitude to the Most High. I need hardly tell you this, for many an ancient parish church and noble cathedral has been endowed by the pious liberality of individuals; nor need I tell you

* See Vol. IV., p. 361.

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